

# US/ICOMOS Summer Internships

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Since 1984, the National Park Service has been the primary partner of US/ICOMOS in a program providing unique international internship opportunities for graduate students and young professionals in historic preservation. What began as a pilot effort to place four participants from other ICOMOS national committees on teams of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), has expanded to become a program that has included 200 young preservation professionals from 30 countries.

By the end of the first decade, in summer 1993, there were several offices in the US and abroad who sponsor interns because of program alumni who have brought their agencies into the exchanges. The US/ICOMOS International Summer Intern Programs benefit the global community of historic preservation and cultural resource professionals by insuring a continuing dialogue between nations through the establishment of working relationships that influence an entire professional lifetime.

The program is in fact an accumulation of components. There are bilateral exchanges between the United States and the United Kingdom, the US and Lithuania,

Poland, Russia and Israel. Hungary and Germany have also cooperated in exchanges. In addition to the exchanges, applicants are accepted from other ICOMOS countries where no bilateral exchange yet exists, in the hope of spurring the creation of new exchanges. Other countries which have participated are Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, P.R. China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Syria and Yugoslavia.

Internships are developed to represent the range of preservation-related fields: architecture, architectural history, landscape architecture, materials conservation, museum studies and interpretation. In the United States, the great majority of internships are conducted with

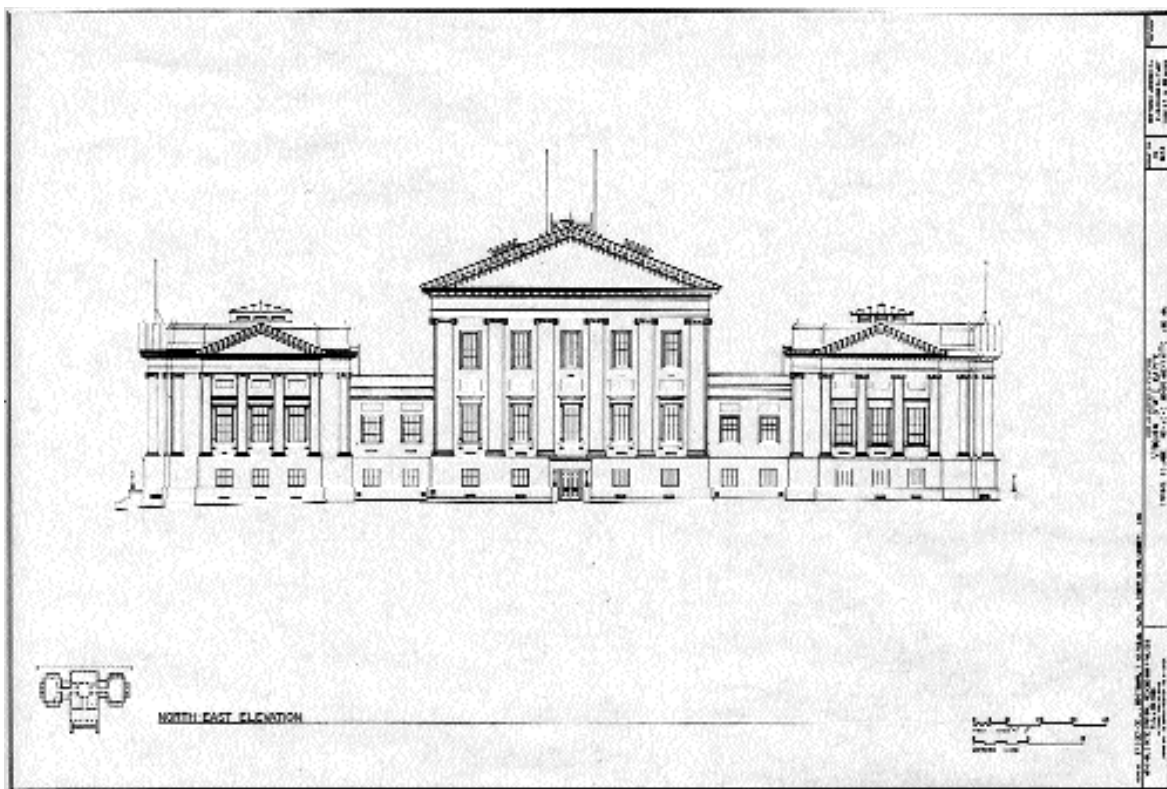
HABS/HAER.

Foreign interns are integrated into the summer field teams as architectural technicians and in some cases as historians. HABS provides these interns with a detailed, intensive level of training in documentation which is rarely available in other countries.

Work on HAER teams provides instruction in documentation and interpretation techniques of the industrial heritage that is just being explored in many other ICOMOS committees. Internships offered by specific park sites or by



US intern Mary Edman surveyed the 14th century timber-framed spire of All Saints Church, Maldon (England), while working for the Essex County Council Planning Department in 1992. She was an architectural student at the University of Florida.



Gerhard Pfundner, an architectural student at the Technical University of Vienna (Austria) was a member of the 1989 HABS team which made measured drawings of the Virginia state capitol.

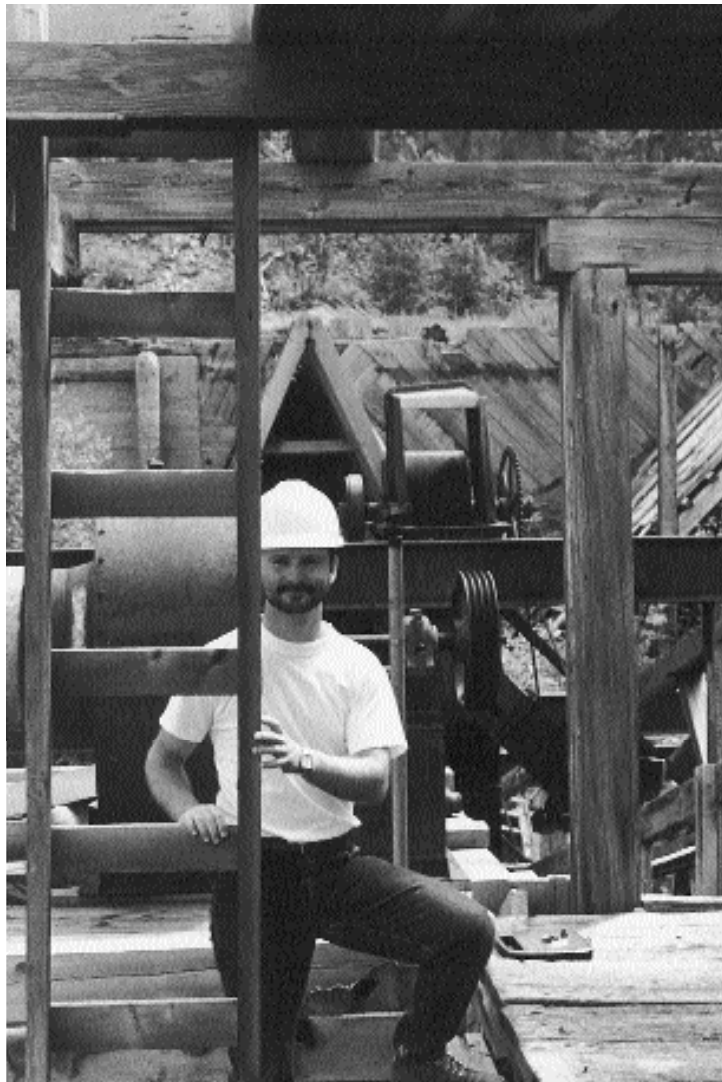
other NPS divisions insure the diversity of fields. Assignments have included work on historic structure reports, architectural and historical and landscape history research, site interpretation and materials science and acid rain research. NPS participating offices include Alaska Region, Denver Service Center, Independence National Historical Park, Lowell National Historical Park, Mid-Atlantic Region, Park Historic Architecture Division, Preservation Assistance Division - Acid Rain Research Unit, Presidio Planning Team and Southwest Region. The NPS Office of International Affairs provides access to special training visas and coordinates financial participation of the regions.

Recruitment of interns is accomplished through ICOMOS National Committees. These applicants must meet the same standards and requirements as US summer hires. The limited number of places make the selection process competitive.

Selection panels at each ICOMOS committee forward the best one or two applications from their countries to US/ICOMOS; the professional staff at HABS/HAER and other participating NPS offices make the final selection of interns.

In the US, the program is announced in newsletters and journals. Brochures and application forms are sent to all degree and certificate-granting historic preservation programs in the US. Word-of-mouth information about the program also leads to many inquiries. The program has benefitted from much publicity here and in other countries, from articles in *CONTEXT*, the journal of The Association of Conservation Officers in the U.K., to Voice of America broadcasts to Lithuania and Poland, and local newspaper articles on HABS/HAER teams and on Americans working in the British national parks.

A jury of US/ICOMOS members has the difficult task of selecting the US interns for projects abroad. US/ICOMOS receives 10 applications for each position available. The greatest diversity of projects is seen in the internships in the United Kingdom. Projects have included a technical report and historical study of vertical slate hanging in Wales; vernacular buildings surveys; regional assignments on the English Heritage



Albert Affenzer of Austria was assigned in 1992 to a HAER documentary recording team at Bald Mountain Gold Mine in South Dakota. He was an architectural student at the Technical University of Vienna.

Buildings at Risk Survey; historical and archival research of an English country house steward's records; and a stone cleaning and surface treatment bibliography for a technical research program.

In other countries where a language barrier exists, projects are limited to architectural or landscape documentation. As opposed to the U.K. where a variety of public and private nonprofit preservation organizations are sponsors, the ICOMOS exchange partners on the continent, particularly in the former Soviet Union and East-Block countries, place their interns in the national monuments offices. One important aspect of the program since the beginning is the intern's total immersion into the local culture, both professionally and at leisure.

Expansion of the program in its second year was accomplished with a grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Information Agency, and each new exchange has been supported by a USIA grant for the first one or

two years. Now, the program operates on an annual budget of \$225,000. This is covered in half by stipends from sponsors, such as the National Park Service and the foreign monuments offices; and the other half by foundation grants for further stipends, travel grants, orientation and final debriefing sessions and administrative expenses. Mostly, the program has prospered because of the dedication and professional commitment of participants—National Park Service and foreign sponsors, donors and the interns themselves. US/ICOMOS welcomes inquiries from other NPS units about sponsoring an international intern for the summer.

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